MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 2, 2016/2017

PEN0045 – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

(All Sections)

09 MARCH 2017
9.00 a.m – 11.00 a.m
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** pages with **THREE** sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the passage and answer the following questions.

South Korean Education System: A Culture of Being the Best

1 Probably you have heard about the so-called East Asian "tiger moms", who push their children, make them pursue their goals, and do not recognise "I can't" as a **valid** response. In the case of South Korea, the system is not warm-and-fuzzy when it comes to education, as is the case in more flexible Finland, with whom this tiger country shares the top spot. In Finland, students do fewer hours in class per week; whereas, South Korean children spend 12 hours a day studying.

2 There is certainly no universal education system which works for every culture and mentality. However, thanks to PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) results, we can observe that these two diametrically opposite systems have something in common: **persistence** and hard work, which got them both out of potential crises. Although widely viewed by outsiders as too strict, South Korea education system proves to be one of the best in the world. Every year, South Korea receives one of the highest ranks in the world best education systems. South Korea also achieved its literacy rate of nearly 100 per cent and reached high international achievement scores.

3 Since education is highly regarded in Korean culture and is perceived as the means to climb up the socio-economic ladder, the South Korean government has **allocated** 19.8 per cent of its central government budget to education. Technology literacy is equally important. Advanced gadgets can be seen in almost every classroom: tablets, LCD screens – anything "tech-smart" that goes with the flow of modern times and can be used for education purposes.

4 South Korean national curriculum framework is developed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST). This framework is revised every five to ten years. It includes subject content as well as the amount of time to be spent on each subject per school year. Kindergarten is optional, but beginning at the age of six, all children between the ages of six and fifteen are required to attend school in South Korea. There are six years of elementary school, three years of junior high school and three years of senior high school. Students typically attend their local elementary and junior high schools; they do not have a great deal of school choice until the end of compulsory education, which is at the end of junior high school.

5 The **transition** to three years of junior high school can be difficult because studies are taken far more seriously. Besides, junior high schools offer optional programmes like Fine Arts, Ethics, Practical Arts, History, Music, Physical Education, Technology, and *Hanja* Chinese Characters. Following senior high school, students who want to continue to a university must take a College Scholastic Ability Test (CSAT), which has a major impact on their higher education prospects. Leading up to this test, most South Korean students will engage in some form of extra study outside of school, ranging from classes at *hagwons*, or cram schools, to private tutoring sessions. There is a culture of "examination hell" in South Korea, and

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students often feel **implausible** amounts of pressure about their performance in CSAT.

6 University admission is based on a student's performance on the CSAT, for which students begin studying years ahead of time. On the day of this test each year, the government reschedules the workday so that students are not exposed to traffic on their way to the test, police monitor noise on the streets, and military exercises are paused. Each Korean university has its own admission standards and selectivity rate, and students who do not perform well on the CSAT are still able to attend junior colleges or less selective four-year colleges. About 85 per cent of Korean students go on to some form of higher education.

7 The country's 15-year-olds have the highest reading scores among developed countries. They rank third in proficiency in science and mathematics, and more than 80 per cent of them will go to college. However, the glowing statistics has a dark side. South Korea has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Suicide, in fact, is the leading cause of death among Koreans aged 15 to 24. It is cited as one of the factors in the decline of South Korea's population growth. The academic pressure, together with **colossal** and challenging education cost, gives a lot of stress to the them. Due to these reasons, many Koreans are opting out and studying abroad. In 2012, 154,100 Koreans were enrolled in foreign universities.

8 For Koreans, the time spent studying, researching, and pursuing greatness at all costs is a price worth paying. Like it or not, the "sink-or-swim" mind-set has contributed to what South Korea has become – a living proof of the power of a knowledge-based economy and outstanding people.

Adapted from Koprivica, I. (November 2016). *South Korean education system: A culture of being the best.* Retrieved from http://www.youth-time.eu/articles-education-careers/south-korean-education-system-a-culture-of-being-the-best

Part 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)

Instructions: Based on the passage, provide a word or phrase that best expresses each of the following words.

Example:

Word	Meaning
valid (line 3)	correct

a. persistence (line 10)

b. allocated (line 18)

c. transition (line 31)

d. implausible (line 40)

e. colossal (line 56)

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Part 2: True-False Statements (5 marks)
Instructions: For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.

a. Based on the passage, a 'one size fits all' principle cannot be applied in education system.

b. Preschool is a part of compulsory education in South Korea.

c. The annual college scholastic ability test determines which university the student will enter.

d. Teenage suicide is the leading cause of death in developing countries.

e. The education system of South Korea has helped to develop the country's economic growth.

Part 3: Comprehension (15 marks)
Instructions: Read the passage above and answer all the following

a. Identify the differences between South Korean and Finland's education system. (2 marks)

b. Provide evidence why South Korean education system is considered to be successful. (4 marks)

c. List the steps taken by the South Korean government to enhance students' learning experience. (2 marks)

d. What is the typical situation like for junior high school students? (2 marks)

e. What do the students have to do to achieve good results in CSAT? (2 marks)

f. How does the government show the importance of CSAT? (2 marks)

g. Why did many South Korean students opt to study abroad? (1 mark)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [15 MARKS]

Part 1: Subject Verb Agreement (5 marks)

Instructions: The following extract contains 5 errors on Subject-Verb Agreement. Identify the errors and correct them as shown in the example.

Example:

No.	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	floats	float

Plastic Debris in the World's Ocean

1 Millions of tons of trash **floats** in our oceans. They are called marine debris. There are all kinds of items, including fishing nets and bottles. Currents in the ocean carries this debris so that it collects in big areas known as garbage patches. It is probably a common conception that marine debris consists of just a few pieces of rubbish scattered along the strand line of beaches and is of no harm to anyone. These areas of garbage have been increasing in size since plastic came to be commonly used, about sixty years ago. The biggest one of the garbage patches lie about halfway between Hawaii and San Francisco; it is about the size of Texas and is at least 100 feet deep.

2 Why is these garbage patches such a problem? For one thing, it is known to be the cause of injuries and deaths of numerous marine animals and birds, either because they become entangled in it or they mistake it for prey and eat it. Plastic, as well as synthetic materials, are the most common types of marine debris. It causes the most problems for marine animals and birds. At least 267 different species are known to have suffered from entanglement or ingestion of marine debris including seabirds, turtles, seals, sea lions, whales and fish.

3 The scale of contamination of the marine environment by plastic debris is vast. It is found floating in all the world's oceans, everywhere from polar regions to the equator. The seabed, especially near to coastal regions, is also contaminated – predominantly with plastic bags. Plastic is also ubiquitous on beaches everywhere from populous regions to the shores of very remote uninhabited islands. Until everyone finally stop making so much trash, there is no point in trying to clean up the garbage patches.

Adapted from Allsopp, M., Walters, A., Santillo, D., & Johnston, P. (n.d.). *Plastic debris in the world's ocean.* Retrieved from http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/marinelitter/publications/docs/plastic_ocean_report.pdf

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Part 2: Verb Tenses (10 marks)
Instructions: Write the appropriate usage of tenses for the words in the brackets.

Example: Today, King Tutankhamun **(0) _is_ (be)** perhaps one of the best known...

King Tut Revealed

Today, King Tutankhamun **(0) _____(be)** perhaps one of the best known pharaohs of ancient Egypt. King Tutankhamun was a minor figure in ancient Egyptian history. King Tutankhamun was born at Akhenaten which was the capital city of Egypt. He was the last king of a powerful family that ruled Egypt for centuries. The young pharaoh ruled at the end of the 18th Dynasty, at a time when Egypt (1) _____(be) fabulously rich and powerful. The country had prospered for more than a thousand years, keeping traditions that (2) _____(arise) even before the famous pyramids at Giza were built.

King Tut, (as King Tutankhamun is often known today) was just a teenager when he died. King Tut was placed in luxurious, gold filled tomb. He (3) _____ (lie) forgotten until the tomb was eventually discovered in 1922. The British archaeologists, Howard Carter, opened Tut's tomb in 1922. Although the tomb was robbed for its treasure, it was still full of gold and other amazing items. Carter (4) _____ (spend) months carefully recording the treasures. While Carter and his team (5) _____ (remove) King Tut's mummy, they found that it had become attached to its solid gold coffin. Sadly, they did a great deal of damage to the mummy.

In 1968, archaeologists conducted an examination of the mummy using simple x-ray technology. Three important discoveries (6) _____ (lead) to various theories about his death. First, the x-ray showed that the bones in King Tut's chest were missing. Carter did not make that damage. To test the theory, some people guessed that it was caused by a war injury or a hunting accident since King Tut was a trained fighter and hunter. Second, there appeared to be pieces of bones inside the skull, causing many to believe that King Tut was killed by a blow from behind the head. Third, a serious fracture was discovered above King Tut's left knee which could have been the result of an attack or accident. Infection might have started there and killed the king. Up until now, many (7) _____ (believe) that the third theory is most possible theory.

In recent years, scientists, under the direction of Zahi Hawass, head of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, (8) _____ (apply) a new and more effective x-ray technology to mummies through Egypt. In the images, each bone appears in perfect detail. So, was King Tut's death a murder or an accident, an infection or a war injury? Doctors who analysed the x-ray images said that the skull was mainly undamaged, excluding the possibility of a blow to the head. While modern technology has been able to rule out one theory, the reason for King Tut's death at such a young age still (9) _____ (remain) a mystery. Zahi Hawass said, "Our team is still doing our best to find the real cause of death. We hope that we (10) _____(solve) the mystery soon."

Adapted from (n.d.). *King Tut revealed.* Retrieved from http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2005/06/king-tut/williams-text

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SECTION C: WRITING [20 MARKS]

Instructions: Using the data given below, analyse the memberships of three health club in year 2012 to 2014. In your analysis, you are to link the information given in the two visuals. You should write **150 to 200 words.**

Figure 1: Number of Health Club Members 2012-2014

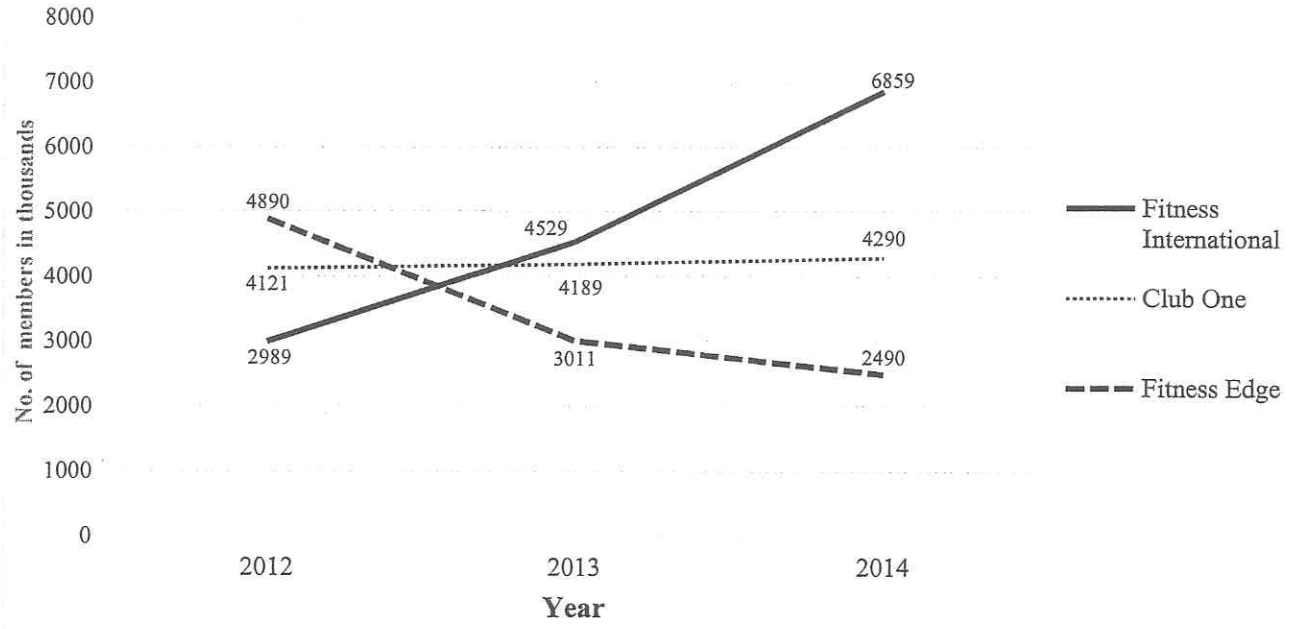

Table 1: Members' Satisfaction Year 2014

	Fitness International	Club One	Fitness Edge
Fees	★★★	★★★★	★★★★
Facilities	★★★★	★★★	★★
Cleanliness	★★★★★	★★★	★
Services	★★★★	★★★	★★

★-Very Poor ★★- Below Average ★★★- Average ★★★★- Above Average ★★★★★- Excellent

End of Paper